Archie
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#146
SEGA
SONIC
SHADOW
THE HEDGEHOG
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
THE GOOD THE BAD AND THE UNKNOWN!

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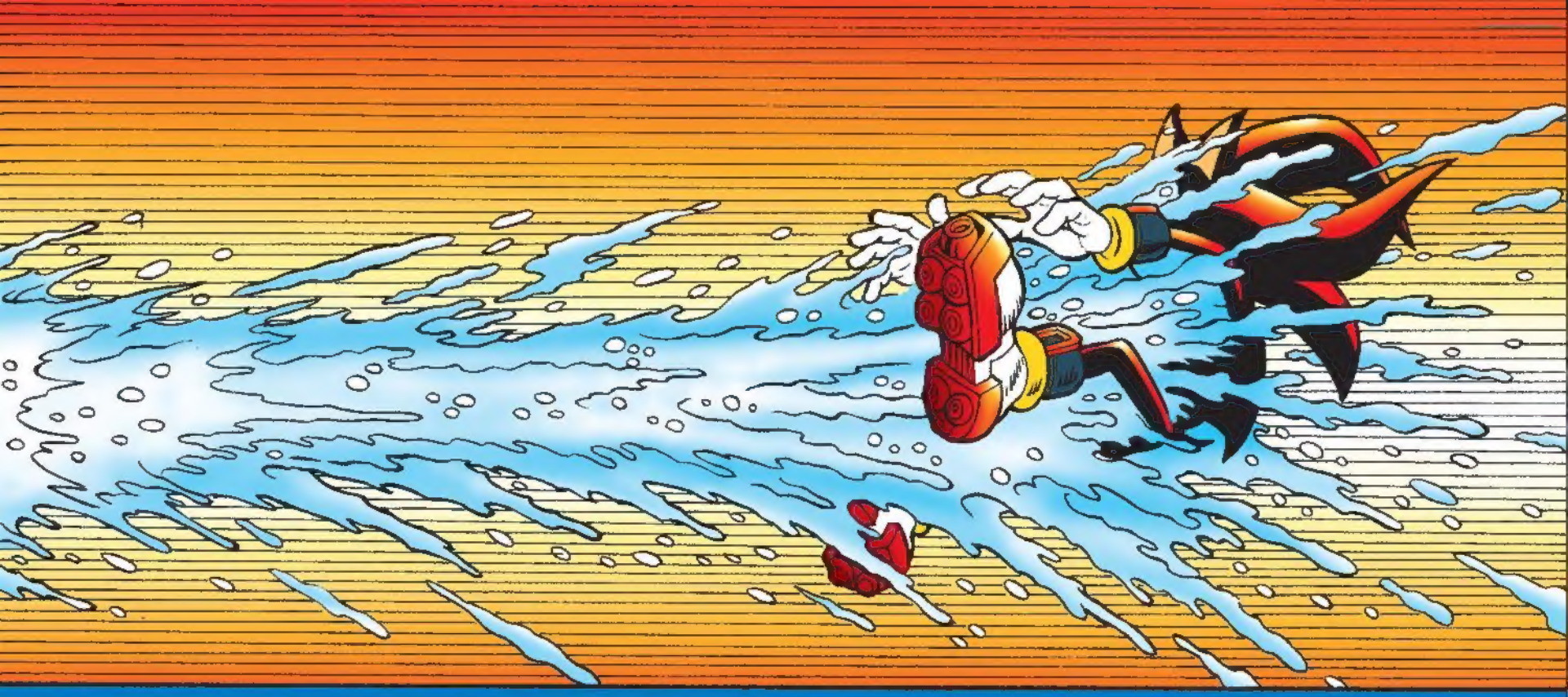

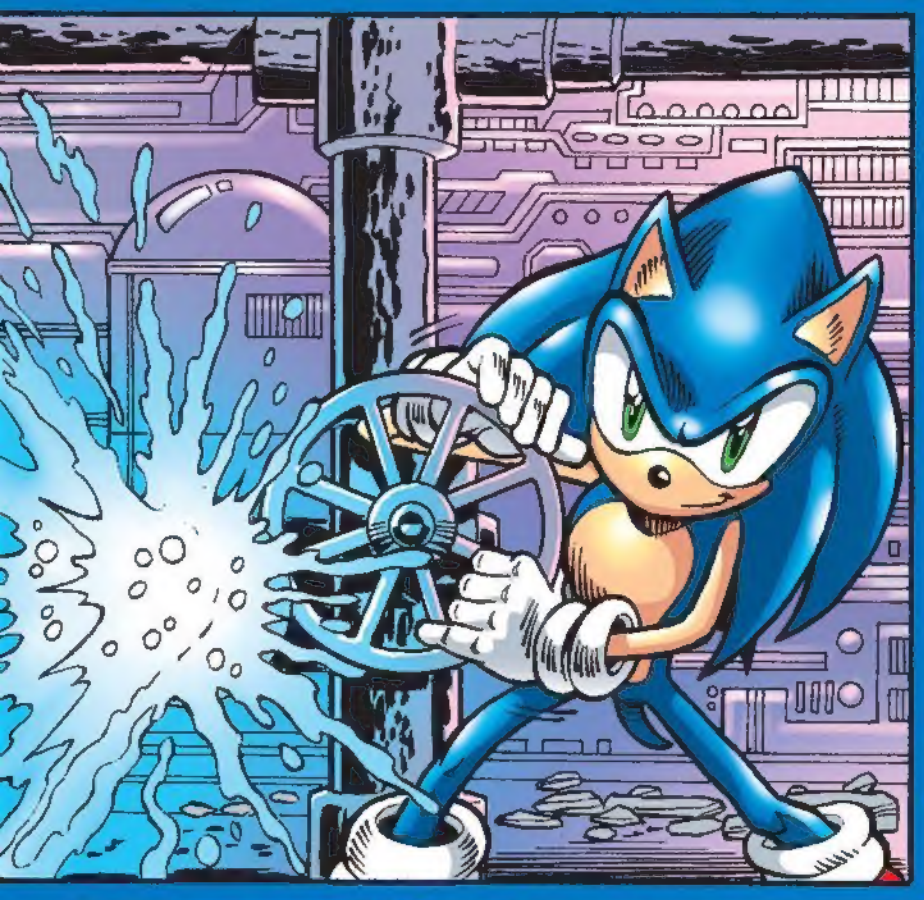

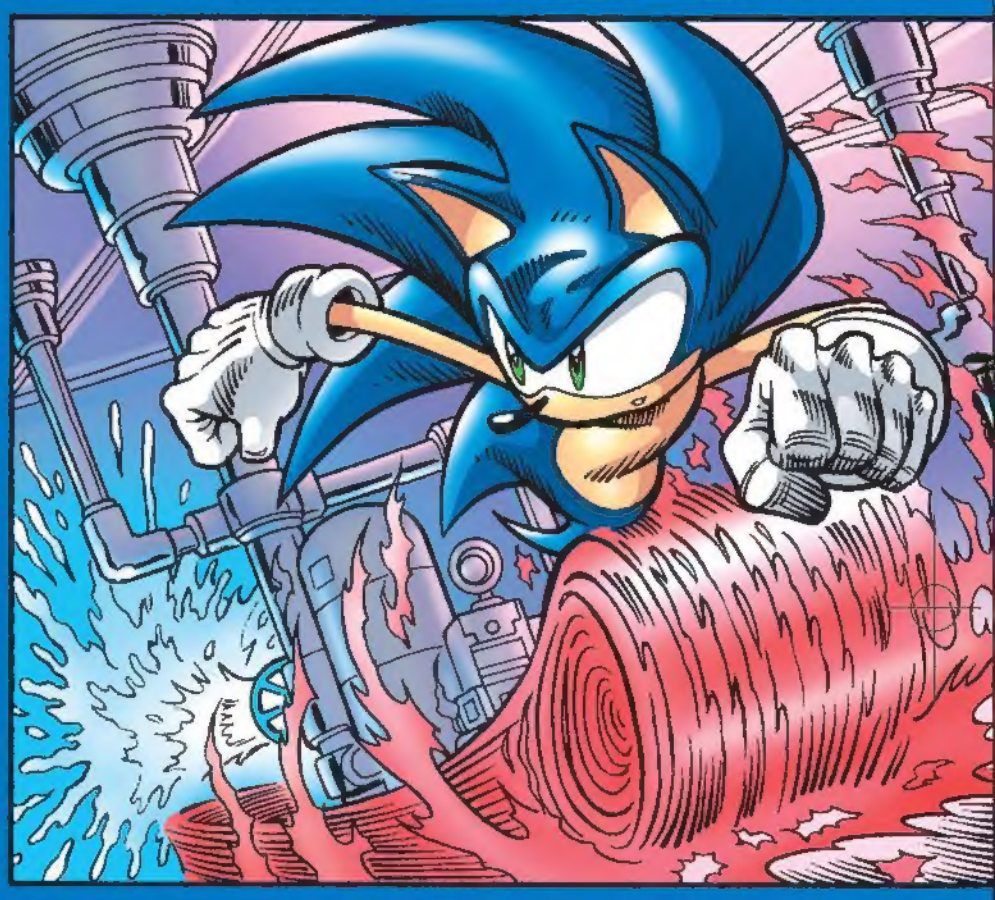

STANDING AMIDST THE DEBRIS OF HIS BATTLE WITH

SONIC™ THE HEDGEHOG

THE SENTIENT KNOWN AS **SHADOW** TABULATES HIS NEXT MOVE WHEN HE HEARS THE SOUND OF VOICES DRAWING NEAR...

SONIC! SONIC!

I CAN DISTINGUISH **TWO** VOCAL PATTERNS, BUT THE **FOOTSTEPS** ECHOING OFF THE FLOOR INDICATE THE PRESENCE OF **MORE!**

SPECIAL THANKS TO ROBERT LEFFLER AND DYNA LOPEZ AT SEGA LICENSING

THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE UNKNOWN

PART ONE: PROTOTYPE

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WHERE ARE YOU?

BETTER TO FIGHT ANOTHER TIME!

I HAVE A HIGHER **PRIORITY** IN NEED OF RESOLUTION **FIRST!**

THAT'S **FUNNY!**

AH COULD HAVE SWORN AH **HEARD** SOMEONE HEAH JUST A MINUTE AGO!

IF IT **WAS** SONIC, WHY **DIDN'T** HE ANSWER?

HE COULD BE IN TROUBLE!

BUT FROM WHAT?

THEY OBVIOUSLY HAVEN'T MADE THEIR WAY THROUGHOUT THE COMPLEX--

OR ELSE THEY WOULD KNOW BETTER!

EVEN I HAD PROBLEMS NAVIGATING AROUND!

BUT THE MORE I EXAMINE, THE MORE I LEARN--

--THE MORE CERTAIN I AM...

...THAT ALL MY ANSWERS MAY BE FOUND HERE!

ALREADY I'VE ACCESSED DATA RELEVANT TO THE MYSTERY OF MY ORIGINS--

--INCLUDING HIM!

STATUS, ISAAC?

NOMINAL

I TRACKED YOUR ENCOUNTER WITH ONE OF THE SENTIENTS.

WHY DID YOU DISENGAGE?

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION!

THERE WAS NO LOGICAL REASON NOT TO PURSUE THE HEDGEHOG!

MAYBE IT'S THE BUZZING I HEAR IN MY HEAD!

BUZZING?

IMAGES-- ONE MIGHT CALL THEM MEMORIES--

I WAS ENGAGED IN COMBAT WITH AN ECHIDNA WHO CALLED HIMSELF LOCKE--

--UNTIL A YOUNG OVERLANDER NAMED HOPE INTERCEDED!

THIS DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN TREAT HIM THE SAME WAY!

I THOUGHT YOU WERE BETTER THAN THAT!

UPON REALIZING THAT HOPE WAS NOT MY CREATOR'S GRAND-DAUGHTER, MARIA--

--I WENT MY OWN WAY--

--CONTEMPLATING MY LOT ON ANGEL ISLAND--

--UNTIL--

DOWN THERE--

--AMONG THOSE MOUNTAINS--

--A SIGNAL--

--JUST LIKE THE ONE PROFESSOR GERALD SENT--

--BEFORE HIS STATION WAS INVADED!

BOOOM!

I HAD TRIGGERED A DEFENSIVE DEVICE, BUT I SURVIVED--

--AND DISCOVERED YOU SEALED WITHIN AN AIR-TIGHT CHAMBER..

COULD THIS BE ANOTHER OF PROFESSOR GERALD'S CREATIONS?

I HAD TO KNOW, AND THUS, I ACTI-VATED YOUR RELEASE...

THOUGH YOU WERE NOT IM-MERSED IN FLUIDS, AS I HAD BEEN.., THE SIMI-LARITIES TO MY EX-PERIENCE...

...FAR OUT-WEIGHED THE DIFFER-ENCES...

IDENTIFY YOURSELF!

I AM ISAAC--

--AN ALPHA-100 SERIES MECHANOID--

--CREATED BY PROFESSOR--

--GERALD?

THAT NAME DOES NOT COMPUTE.

PROFESSOR CLARKE DESIGNED MY HARDWARE.

DOCTOR NIVEN PROGRAMMED MY SOFTWARE!

WHERE ARE THEY?

INSUFFICIENT DATA

I REQUIRE MORE INPUT.

UPON RUNNING YOUR DIAGNOSTIC THROUGH THE MAINFRAME, WE SOON LEARNED MUCH OF YOUR ORIGINS--

CLARKE AND NIVEN CREATED YOU OVER TEN MILLENNIA AGO!

THEY BUILT YOU, BUT NEVER USED YOU.

WHY?

--BUT NOTHING OF MINE ....

EVEN THOUGH OVERLANDERS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR BEING--

--THEY HELD NO RELATION TO PROFESSOR GERALD!

SONIC!

OH, MY! HE LOOKS PRETTY *BAD!*

ROTOR TO BUNNIE--

--I NEED THE *MEDI-KIT!*

COPY THAT!

I'LL RETRIEVE IT FROM *FREEDOM ONE* AND BE BACK IN A FLASH!

BUNNIE!!! WAIT!

AW, NUTS!

WHATEVER IT IS CAN *WAIT*, MILES!

WHILE SHE GETS THE KIT, WE CAN JOIN UP WITH ROTOR!

THAT'S JUST IT! HOW DO WE *FIND* SONIC AND ROTOR?

BUNNIE JUST TOOK OUR *COMM-LINK* WITH HER!?

EASY, SONIC! JUST *RELAX!*

I GUESS WE STUMBLED ONTO SOMETHING *BIGGER* THAN WE COULD HAVE *IMAGINED!*

I'M OKAY! JUST-- *EXHAUSTED!*

YOU LOOK MORE *BANGED-UP* THAN BEAT TIRED.

THAT *OBVIOUS*, HUH?

I RAN INTO *SHADOW!*

WHILE YOU WERE PLAYING AROUND WITH THE COMPUTERS, I DECIDED TO CHECK OUT THE JOINT WHILE WAITING FOR THE OTHERS TO HOOK UP WITH US...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

FUNNY, BUT I WAS THINKING THE SAME ABOUT YOU!

I AM NOT ACCOUNTABLE TO YOU!

THEN I DON'T HAVE TO *TELL*, EITHER!

SEEMS LIKE WE'RE GOING *NOWHERE* P.D.Q.*

*PRETTY DARN QUICK.

CORRECTION: I MAY NOT BE--

--BUT YOU CERTAINLY ARE!

WHAAM

SO WE *DUKED* IT OUT FOR WHO KNOWS HOW LONG!

BOTTOM LINE-- THAT SUCKER *CAN* THROW A *PUNCH!*

SHADOW MAY *LOOK* LIKE A *HEDGEHOG*--

--BUT I DON'T BELIEVE FOR A SECOND HE'S *RELATED* TO YOU IN *ANY* WAY!

IN FACT, I'M NOT SURE HE'S EVEN A *MOBIAN* LIKE *US!*

"THEN WHAT IS HE???"

I'D RECOGNIZE THAT FIGURE ANYWHERE!

GO IN FOR A CLOSER LOOK, BAT BRAIN!

INTERESTING! SHE WENT INTO THAT OPENING WHICH LEADS TO-- WHAT?!

HMMM...

A MASSIVE EXPLOSION OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE--

--AND THE BRATS OF ACORN ARE SONIC ON THE SPOT!

WHY? WHAT'S THE CONNECTION?

THEY'RE NOT THE TYPE TO LEAVE THE SECURITY OF THEIR CONFINES UNLESS THERE'S A THREAT--

--USUALLY BECAUSE OF MOI!

WHICH MEANS--

--SONIC AND HIS FELLOW RODENTS EITHER THINK I'M ALREADY INVOLVED--

--OR ELSE ARE AFRAID OF WHATEVER'S OUT THERE FALLING INTO MY HANDS.

IN EITHER CASE--

FORTUNATELY, I'VE ALWAYS BEEN ONE TO STAY *AHEAD* OF THE *CURVE!*

IT'S *TIME* I *GET INTO* THE *GAME!*

AFTER ALL, WHAT IF WHAT THEY *FIND* COULD BE USED *AGAINST* ME?

IF I'M DENIED CREATING *NEW* TROOPS THROUGH *ROBOTIZATION*, MY *LATEST BREAKTHROUGH* COULD PROVIDE A *BETTER ALTERNATIVE.*

ONCE I ACTIVATE THE *POWER SUPPLY* FOR THIS *SMALL* SAMPLE OF SELF-REPLICATING, PRE-PROGRAMMED *MICRO-CHIPS--*

--ALLOW THEM TO *FEED* OFF THE SOURCE FOR THE *REQUISITE TIME PERIOD--*

--AND, *VOILA!*

--POPPA'S GOT A BRAND NEW *METAL-SONIC!*

BWAHAAAAAAA

You've met the Players, the stage has been set, and now it's time to buckle up as we shift into high gear for...

IGNITION!

TOMMY THE TURTLE IN OUT OF YOUR SHELL

RONY CHACON - WRITER RON LIM - PENCILER RICH KOSLOWSKI - INKER
VICKIE WILLIAMS - LETTERER JASON JENSEN - COLORIST

RISE AND SHINE, SLEEPY HEAD!

RIIIINNNGG

C'MON, TOMMY, GET UP. I HAVE TO GET TO THE CASTLE.

HEY, YOU WANTED ME TO GET YOU UP... TOMMY?

ARE YOU GOING TO GET UP AND--

AAAAHHH!!

UMM, I THINK I'LL STAY IN BED TODAY.

IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY TO GO EXPLORING AND SEE KNOTHOLE.

ACTUALLY, I THINK I'M STUCK.

BOOMP

WHATEVER. IF YOU GET UNSTUCK, GO HAVE SOME FUN.

SURE. FUN.

AND SO...

BYE.

The Princess wants me to run maintenance on the Technolo-Tree, and after that I have to head back to the laboratory for that top secret--

SLAMM!

ACTUALLY, MAYBE WE COULD... OH.

MUCH LATER IN THE DAY...

--OK, IF IT'S NOT THERE, IT MUST BE HERE SOMEWHERE-I JUST HAVE TO RETRACE--

HEY! BOOMER, YOU'RE BACK! DO YOU WANT TO DO SOMETHING NOW?

WOW, HAVEN'T HEARD THAT IN A WHILE--LOOK, T--I AM IN A REAL CRUNCH FOR TIME.

SORRY, I JUST GOT EXCITED. IT'S JUST THAT EVERYONE IS SO BUSY ALL THE TIME, AND I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY-THING TO DO.

I TALKED TO SONIC AND SALLY MORE WHEN THEY RESCUED ME THAN NOW.*

DON'T SAY THAT, TOMMY. THAT'S NOT TRUE.

IF I KNOW ANYTHING, IT'S THAT EVERYBODY HAS SOME-THING THEY'RE REALLY GOOD AT. YOU JUST HAVE TO FIND OUT WHAT THAT IS FOR YOU.

*AS SEEN IN ISSUES 135, 136, AND 137.

I PROMISE, I'LL MAKE SOME TIME TODAY. BUT I REALLY HAVE TO GET--

--IF ONLY I COULD FIND THE FILE ON THE TECHNOLO-TREE'S SYSTEM DIAGNOSTIC. I THOUGHT I THREW IT ON TOP OF THE PILE. HMM...

NO! WHERE ARE MY FILES? ALL MY FILES ARE GONE!

NO, THEY'RE NOT. I FILED THEM!

YOU WHAT?

THERE, IN THAT CABINET. I WAS BORED, SO I TOOK YOUR FILES AND ALPHABETIZED THEM WITH COLORED TABS TO EASILY FIND SUBJECT HEADINGS. AND THE FILE YOU THREW ON YOUR PILE, I FILED LAST NIGHT. I JUST STOPPED SHORT AT DOING YOUR CLOTHES.

HERE'S THE FILE. WOW, TOMMY, THIS IS REALLY AMAZING. THANKS!

OH, BY THE WAY, WITH THAT PROBLEM WITH THE TECHNOLO-TREE...

...YOU MAY WANT TO *RE-LINK* THE DELTA CONNECTION AND *RE-INSTALL* THE INPUT COMPONENT.

WHOA!

I MAY BE A SLOW TURTLE BUT I'M A FAST THINKER.

I'VE BEEN READING YOUR FILES. HOPE YOU DON'T MIND.

YOU KNOW WHAT...

"...HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO ASSIST ME? I WILL TEACH YOU EVERYTHING I KNOW... YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO HELP KEEP THE LAB CLEAN."

OH, YEAH... NOW THIS IS SOMETHING I THINK I'LL LIKE!

FIRST, I'LL START WITH THE TEST TUBES, THEN--

THE BEGINNING!

SO, WHAT IS SO IMPORTANT YOU HAD TO DRAG ME OUT OF MY MEETING? WOW, IT'S CLEAN IN HERE!

TOMMY, HAS BEEN HELPING ME PRINCESS. NOW, AS TO WHY YOUR HERE. ACTUALLY, I DON'T REALLY NEED YOU. IT'S NICOLE I NEED. I THINK WE HAVE FOUND A WAY TO HARNESS EVEN MORE ENERGY FROM THE POWER RINGS.

AS COMPARED TO ROBOTNIK'S REALMS, WHICH STILL USE DIRTY FOSSIL FUELS--

--WE'VE CREATED TECHNOLOGY FROM THE GROUND UP THAT USE THE RINGS AS AN ENVIRONMENTALLY-SAFE SOLUTION TO POWER IT.

THE PROBLEM IS THIS, IF WE INCREASE THE POWER OUTPUT, THE RINGS STABILITY MAY DECREASE. IT COULD BE BAD.

WHAT KIND OF BAD?

THE KIND OF BAD THAT COULD LEVEL KNOTHOLE. OR IT COULD JUST BURN THE RING OUT. NEITHER SCENARIO IS A LOCK. IT COULD HAPPEN NOW, NEVER, OR SOME LATER TIME.

HOW MUCH LATER?

I DON'T KNOW. ONLY NICOLE CAN FIGURE OUT CALCULATIONS OF THAT NATURE.

NICOLE, RUN A DIAGNOSTIC ON THAT POWER RING AND--

TRIP

WHA...?

QUANTUM PHYSICS MADE EASY

CIRCUIT ME

Starring SALLY & NICOLE

AAARRRGHH!

SSKWWAARRK!

BOK!

KRASH!

KRASH!

KRASH!

SAAALLYYY!!!

ROMY CHACON - Writer
AL BIGLEY - Penciller
MICHAEL HIGGINS - Inker
VICKIE WILLIAMS - Letterer
JASON JENSEN - Colorist

PRINCESS SALLY, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

NICOLE, PLEASE RESPOND.

I DON'T FEEL QUITE MYSELF. AM I DAMAGED?

DAMAGED? UH, I DON'T THINK SO, BUT NICOLE MAY BE. WE'LL FIND OUT AS SOON AS SHE FINISHES REBOOTING.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

HOLD ON TO WHAT, ROTOR? I CAN'T EVEN FEEL MY HANDS.

HOLD ON, PRINCESS. NICOLE, PLEASE RESPOND.

OH, MY GOSH! NICOLE, UH, RUN A SYSTEMS DIAGNOSTIC ON YOURSELF...

I CANNOT...

I THOUGHT SO. YOU'VE SWITCHED BODIES WITH PRINCESS SALLY, AND VICE-VERSA.

SWITCHED BODIES? YOU WOULDN'T BE SAYING THAT IF YOU WERE IN MY SHOES...

GULP.

...OR LACK THERE OF. ROTOR, YOU BETTER HAVE SOME WAY OF SWITCHING US BACK!

BUT HOW CAN THIS BE?

LET ME TAKE A LOOK...

NICOLE, I MEAN SALLY... COULD YOU SCAN THE PROPERTIES OF THIS LIQUID AND--

AND HOW DO YOU SUPPOSE I DO THAT, JUST SAY "SCAN" AND IT--

WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW? OK, LET ME THINK ABOUT WHAT I WANT THE SCANNER TO TELL ME-WHOA! THIS IS REALLY TRIPPY.

NICOLE, COULD YOU EXPLAIN TO SALLY HOW BEST TO--

WAIT--IT WON'T SLOW DOWN...TOO MUCH INFO...GOT TO... CONTROL... SPEED OF IT... THROUGH PROCESSOR.

!

NICOLE--?

THE COLORS, THE SMELLS... MY LIMBS MOVE AT MY COMMAND. EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS EXPERIENCE IS SO INTOXICATING.

SO THIS IS WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE ALIVE... TO FEEL...

...TO LOVE...?

HEY, SAL-GAL! WHAT'S THE SHAKES? HEY, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

SONIC, I-I DON'T KNOW WHY THIS BODY HAS A FEELING OF HAPPINESS AND SADNESS CONCENTRATED IN THE CHEST CAVITY AREA WHEN I LOOK AT YOU. IT IS MOST... STRANGE.

NICOLE?

HEY, ROTE--SAL SEEMS SICK, HELP ME TAKE HER TO DOC.

DON'T WORRY, THAT'S THE RESULT OF THE EFFECTS WEARING OFF. IT IS ONLY TEMPORARY.

ROTOR?

WHAT EFFECTS?

SALLY, THAT IS YOU IN YOUR BODY, ISN'T IT?

YES, IT IS.

WHAT IS GOING ON?

?

SUFFICE IT TO SAY, IT IS A LONG STORY. ANYONE EVER TELL YOU YOU'RE A VERY APPEALING HEDGEHOG?

END